

# Business Briefs

## AIDS

### CDC report finds prisoners infected

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia reports a high rate of AIDS infection among prisoners, especially women. A nationwide survey of 11,000 inmates found that rates of HIV infection ranged from 2.1% to 7.6% among men and 2.5% to 14.7% among women.

The researchers from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and the CDC said in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that these HIV infection rates are much higher than previously reported, except for a survey which found much higher rates in studies of only New York and Maryland, states with high AIDS incidence. This study took areas of moderate and high AIDS incidence for its survey.

The study showed that at nine of the 10 correctional facilities examined, female prisoners had higher rates of HIV infection than their male counterparts, and overall, minorities were much more likely to be infected than whites.

## Research

### South Korea, Germany launch joint projects

South Korea and Germany have agreed to accelerate exchanges of scientists and joint research projects in such fields as laser, robot-application, and magnetic levitation technologies, according to the *Korea Times*. Science-Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon and German Research-Technology Minister Heinz Riesenhuber agreed to promote the transfer of advanced German technologies to Korea in their meeting on March 2.

Under the agreement, the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation (KOSEF) and the Deutsche Forschungs Gemeinschaft will expedite scientist exchanges and hold joint seminars. The Koreans will also send more post-doctoral trainees to Germany each year.

KOSEF-supported science research centers and engineering research centers at univer-

sities will set up cooperative ties with Germany's Max Planck Institute for joint use of research facilities. It was also agreed that the Korea Institute of Science and Technology will jointly develop new materials for aircraft use with a German aerospace research institute, and advanced robotics technologies in cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute.

Also under the agreement, the Korean Institute of Machinery and Metals and Braunschweig University of Germany will conduct joint research for the development of maglev and plasma-assisted material surface manufacturing technology. The Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering will sign an agreement with Fraunhofer shortly to set up a laser center.

## Trade

### Turkey pursues Black Sea economic zone

President Turgut Özal of Turkey is actively pursuing the creation of a Black Sea economic zone centered on relations with neighboring Soviet republics. He was interviewed by TASS on March 10, just before his visit to the Soviet Union.

Özal said that in post war West Asia, "the need arises to create a model of cooperation to link all countries in the region and complement the security system. The economic aspect of the system to be established in the region must ensure economic interdependence, because economic imbalances prove to be sources of conflicts in the region. . . . Its democratic system and an effective market economy make Turkey the only Muslim country which can serve as a model for postwar arrangements in the region."

Özal condemned Saddam Hussein's aggression, and favored the payment of war reparations to create a "special development fund and development bank, with which to coordinate efforts to ensure sources of finance coming from the region's oil extracting countries" and "fulfilling pivotal projects for building oil and gas pipelines and solving water supply problems."

Özal signed a friendship treaty with Gorbachov on March 12, which included inter-government agreements on trade, and eco-

nomical, scientific, and technological cooperation. Turkey is one of the Soviet Union's biggest trading partners.

## Foreign Debt

### Warn of African chaos, starvation

"Africa will sink into the depths of despair . . . with bloodletting, starvation, and chaos, unless the [foreign debt] burden is relieved in the near future." Ugandan President Museveni has told the European Parliament, in his capacity as chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

Museveni said that in addition to the \$202 billion debt, Africa is crippled by the cross-currents of the East-West conflict, complete dependence on raw materials and commodities exports, and the lack of an integrated African market. He urged not only that debt relief be granted, but also that prices be boosted on raw materials, and EC agricultural subsidies be revised to allow African produce to compete.

Museveni also said that the EC should not lift sanctions against South Africa until apartheid has been completely eradicated.

## Development

### Swiss labor union seeks solidarity with E. Europe

Rejecting calls for the Swiss Army to be deployed to police borders against Eastern European economic refugees, the Swiss Christian Union federation has called for "real solidarity" with Eastern Europe, in the words of its leader, Ugo Fasel, through "financing infrastructure and investments, realizing a privileged economic cooperation between the regions of the east and west, [and] opening our markets to products of the post-communist countries."

This union is sponsoring courses for groups of unionists from Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Romania, to teach them Western union methods, in an attempt to pre-

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vent them from passing "from one yoke to another. Freed of communism, there's the danger that they will be subjected to the most cruel market laws."

The ultimate aim of the courses is to "help build free unions in the post-communist countries, and foster the transition to a free market system which respects social needs."

### Science

#### Naval weapons lab duplicates cold fusion

A cold fusion researcher at the Naval Weapons Lab in China Lake, California has used the so-called cold fusion process to obtain excess heat and helium-4 in a basic electrolyte cell. Dr. Melvin Miles, working in collaboration with Dr. Ben Bush at the University of Texas at Austin, said that the correlation of helium-4 and excess heat matches theoretical computations concerning cold fusion. His paper will be published in the next issue of the *Journal of Electroanalytical Chemistry*.

Despite continuing successes in cold fusion experiments since it was discovered by two University of Utah researchers, including three experiments that have mastered a triggering mechanism to turn the heat-producing cells off and on, the scientific establishment continues to proclaim that cold fusion is dead. A spate of reviews of a new book entitled *Too Hot to Handle: The Race for Cold Fusion*, treat cold fusion as a hoax.

### Infrastructure

#### Germany to help Italy build high-speed train

A letter of intent on Italian-German cooperation in high-speed train technology was signed between Siemens Transport Technologies of Germany and Ansaldo Transport of Italy in mid-March. Another prominent Italian firm, Breda Ferroviaria, is engaged in talks to join the project.

Joint research and development, as well as joint projects for the production of high-speed

train systems, is envisaged between Siemens and Ansaldo.

Potential joint ventures in Italy include a north-south rail link between Milan and Naples, and an east-west link between Trieste and Turin. They are projected for completion by the end of this decade. Experts estimate the total investment for both tracks at DM 50 billion. They would permit travel at 250-300 kilometers per hour. A private consortium is embarking on a third high-speed line between Milan and Genoa.

There was wrangling in Italy over whether to solicit German aid or conduct Italian-only rail projects. Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti settled the matter after the sudden death of the State Holdings Minister a few months ago, which made Andreotti the interim minister.

### Nuclear Technology

#### Call for moving Pakistan program forward

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) has brought immense economic, technological, industrial, and agricultural benefits to the nation, the *Pakistan Times* wrote March 10, in an extensive article documenting the necessity of continuing to move the country's nuclear program forward.

"Despite embargos and restraints on the supply of spare parts and nuclear materials, the Karachi nuclear power plant has already generated over 5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity." It says that Pakistan "has the largest research and development facilities in the nuclear field in the entire Muslim world, and is the second-largest in the whole of the Third World."

PAEC's agricultural research institutes have developed 13 new varieties of cotton, wheat, rice, and mungbean through nuclear techniques. The Nuclear Institute of Agriculture and Biology, it says, "has ushered in a cotton revolution in the country and given an impetus to local textile industry."

Similarly, at its nine nuclear medical centers, PAEC has been handling thousands of patients every year, providing cancer treatment and diagnostic services.

● **YURI VERSHININ**, the chairman of the Soviet Union's Tyumen Gas and Oil Association, has warned that "within a year or two, we will have to buy oil abroad," and "our powerful sector is on the brink of collapse." According to TASS, "More than 40 million tons of fuel has already been lost due to reduced financing, shortages of resources, and arguments over prices."

● **THE SWISS** National Parliament has given the go-ahead to two tunnel projects crossing the Alps. A new rail transfer tunnel at the St. Gotthard pass is to increase the capacity from a daily 400 containers/truckloads to 1,000. The other tunnel through Simplon will serve private cars and trucks. The projects are expected to be approved by the Swiss senate and President shortly.

● **GRUMMAN AIRCRAFT** is laying off 110 workers from its Space Station Program Support Division in Reston, Virginia, the *Wall Street Journal* reported March 14. An additional 60 workers will be fired at subcontractors. Because of federal budget cuts, Grumman plans to have only 755 workers in the division by late April, compared to 1,046 at the beginning of 1991.

● **CHINA** has launched a five-year program to repair the leaky toilets that plague those few households lucky enough to have one. There are only 20 million household toilets in China (one for every 60 persons), and 8.5 million of them leak so badly that 300 million cubic meters of water are wasted every year.

● **SOVIET** Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Maslyukov arrived in Beijing March 10 for talks on a 1 billion Swiss franc credit China will grant the U.S.S.R. to buy Chinese food, textiles, and light industrial goods. The agreement will allow China to reduce vast stockpiles of consumer and other goods that have built up in the past 18 months, because Chinese consumers have not bought them.